

Selected Cator Family Letters from the Evelyn Jefferson Fox Papers

1989.001

Transcribed by

Elora Amtower, 2013

"Item, collection title and identifier, box # and folder # (if applicable), Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture, Salisbury University, Salisbury, Maryland."

Williamson County 30th of Sept. 1822

Dear Brother

A few weeks past I Recid your favour by the
Hands of Mr. Lake and am Realey glad to hear from you all
Onust (?) man more and Espesially to hear of your Heth and prosperity
in answer to which I am Happy to inform you that myself an
old Lady are still numbered with poor dying Mortals and are
Blessed with as great a share of helth as could be expected being
of such an advanced age. . . Brother Levin was mareyed almost 2 years
Past to Mrs Meyatt formerly Ms Saunderson of Durants Neck N. Carlolina
he stayed there last summer and came out hear last faul in a Quiet
low state of health continued hear all last winter and left this
Early in the spring for N. Carolina with an intention of moving
his family out hear next spring he had not Recovered his Helth when
he left Hear I recieved a letter from him a fiew months past by which
I am informed that he still continued Quite unwell and that he intended
going to the North the latter part of the summer inhopes to Recover helth
and that his wife has a fine Daughter and farther stated that he
intended if life and Helth would admit to come out hear next
summer and that his wife had declined moving to this countrey
if so it will place him in a bad situation for he cannot go _____
his helth in that countrey or at best never has therefore if she should
fail to move I expect he will have to spend the summer at least
in this countrey for his helth and the winter in Carolina But I
Realey at times almost dispair of seeing him again in the world

I discover that you are keeping a paint sayl store that my _____
Buisiness . But I am doubtful it is injurious to Helth. . you also observed
that you have a thought of purchasing a farm in the state of Virginia
But I Realey do think it will be much more to your interest to come
on to this countrey. it is true that lands are verey high out(?) price
and if you could sell your property in Maryland for Negro property
I think you might Barter such property for land hear to a good
Advantage although that is a Trade that I am not fond of myself
I have no doubts but your famieley would be pleased with the countrey
and also with the society after a year or Two Tryal as they might
not like it at the first for there are very fiew people who were
always used to a level countrey that are fond of a hilly one in
in the first instance on trial. . . it is certin there is some very
good lands in Virginia and if you could git a good plantation there
in all probability you might do very well But still I am sure you
would do much better out hear and Espesially at this time as there
is as such a great out let in new settled places that maney
people are offering to sell out hear and move to those new settled places
another reason is it is likely that property I mean lands will increase
in value hear much more than it will in Virginia this is
my canded opinion on the subject it is certin I should be glad for
you to be out hear But would not advise you to come unless I
Realey thought it would be to your interist. . . Times are hard out
Hear at the present money is very scarce produce low Corn may be
Had in the countrey at a dollar per Bushell and was land at this time

sells low to what it did some time past there was 2 small plantations
near me that was latrley sold at \$ 11 per acre which h for some time past
would have sold for \$ 20 per acre these men intends going to said
new places where they can purchase land at a low price

I am truley glad to hear that our dear old Father is still a live
It would be much more pleaseing to me to see him and all of
my Dear Relatives one time more on this side of the grave

___ as I am now Quite firm as well as much advanced in

Years I never Expect I ever shall see you all again in
this world. Then let us strive by the grave God to meat
in Heaven. Let us Remember that we have hear no continuing
City But let us all seek one to come whose Builder and maker
Is God let us all strive to enter in at the straight gate and
altho there be fiew that find is let us strive to be a part
of that fiew our poor old mother is gone to glorey and shall
she have to say Amen to out damnation God forbid

therefore let us strive to follow her Religious Example and then

I have no doubt But we shall Have out praying Father and praying

Mother and each other on Banks Deliverance where parting

Will be nomore . . . I have no Lawful apololgy to offer for my neglect

In wrting. I have a letter now in the house that I wrote to you and

Brother Able upwards 12 months past and neglected putting it in

The office also Brother Levin told me that Brother John had a

Though of purchasing a farm on putuxen therefore I thought he

probley might have left Baltimore. But if you will parden me

for the past I promise you that I will do Better in future
in my next I will (if Recollected) give you a plain statement
of my present situation of life both in spiritual and
Temperal point of view when you write to me sent your
Letters by male to Nashville and if they aarive there I shall
Sure to git them as I am acquainted with the postman at
That Place. . it was through him that I found out Mr Lake
To Conclude I am your affectionate Brother till Death

Moses E. Cator

NB. My old Lady jains me love to
my dear old Father and family
Sister Hanah and family Brother
John and formerly sister Mahala and family
and Brother Able and family
and to all Enquiring friends and
you will please to aupt the same
your self
PS yourself and Brother John
Or at least one of you must write
My immediately on the Reciept of
This I intend writing to our Dear
old Father shortley which I shall
direct to your care

Nashville OCT. 2

Mr. Joseph Cator Merchant

Light Street wharh

City of Baltimore

Maryland State a single sheet a single sheet

a single sheet a single sheet

a single sheet and so forth

A single sheet and so forth

Edward Cator Hands and

So may write Well But

God Know When

Baltimore May 31st 1835

My Dear Cousin,

According to promise I transmit the few lines

To you to let you know of my health and at the same time to inquire after yours, I am tolerable well at present and hope that this will find you and the family all enjoying the same blessing I am delighted with my situation and very much pleased with my school. I regret exceedingly that I am deprived of the pleasure of being with you on next Saturday and Sunday to the quarterly meeting and I expect there will be a great many of my acquaintance there that I have not seen since the campmeeting and expect that you will enjoy yourself greatly but however I will content myself with the anticipation of seeing you all in August. I should like to see you if I could go one day and return the next day otherwise I prefer remaining where I am at the present, well M. I have heard that Dr. Flint has settled near James Island I think if he had of such, Dorchester County that he could not have found a more central port to be located than James Island with the exception of one or two more places but however I commend him very much for his choice but we can each account for that as there is a magnet lives in the white house, just across the water you know who, enough of this, I last night had the pleasure of seeing your Uncle Thomas I hear some of the ladies in town say that he is the [prettiest] Travers they ever saw and I will join them with the exception of the one who I know address I think your brother Samuel favors him very much that is gone to sea perhaps never more to return again give my love to Father Mother and to the family and to my Dear Grandmother to Aunt uncle and family

and to all inquiring friends . . in particular to Mrs. Charlotte Pattison and family and to Cousin Rebecca and family and to your Aunt Mary and Uncle Samuel your Grandfather Susan sends her love to you and except [expect] of as much from me as a letter can contain. I must conclude as it is time to go to school. Answer this as soon as it comes to hand and I shall greatly appreciate it.

adieu

M.E.T.

P.S.

Please to excuse all mistakes and
bad writing as the pen is bad and
I am in a hurry and dont let any
Person see this , adieu M.E.T.

M.E.T.

Dear Mary,

I received your letter and was glad to hear from you all
I have sent your bonnet and your aunts also I have done the best I
I could and am in hopes your will be pleased with it. I got the
plain straw because it is more worn than the Tuscan I got it as low
as I could I had not money enough to get but one pair of stockings
Mary give my love to Aunt M and tell her I should be very glad to see
Her and your self in Baltimore give my move to all that ask of me
and receive a double share form your-self I have sent the Bill for the
bonnets

I remain your affectionate friend

R. Jane Edmondson

When all this worlds wild storms are past
And your groaning nature breaths her last
In glory dress may you arise
A breathless flower in yonder skies
Transported by celestial grase [grace]
To bloom before the Eternal Face

Miss Mary Ann Travers
Dorchester County
Taylors Island

Tobaccostick Tuesday April 25th 1837

Dear Mother

As I have such a good chance of sending a communication from this place now I thought I would employ some of my leisure moments in writing you one I recieve yours dated april 5th and was glad to hear from you it always affords me a great deal of pleasure to hear form home since I rote to you I have been very well I am entirely well of the itch very glad of it it is very disagreeable I have not yet ascertained when I shal come up there Aunt Rachiel says she don't know wheather she shal go before Sarah A Pattison returnes from Baltimore or not she expects to return in about a week or I should like to come before the herrings are all gone last Saturday evening some persons concealed themselves somewhere in the store I sup-
-pose up the loft I locked them up at about seven or eight Oclock they came out a man saw the door open and sent up to let us know about it we went down but could not make anything but about 75 cents until this morning there has been two fur hats brought to us found in the woods about 2 weeks ago some person tried to burn Mr Hammersly store down it is though that they

placed a candel underneath and stay there
until it got a fire and they left it but as
it happened it went out after it burned
a hole about as large as a dollar on the top of the floor
and underneath as large as your hand (very great Rogues)
I hope they wont burn ours down in Uncle Joe intends
moving the store in to the ship yard he has moved
the Black smiths shop up there he wants all
his property together intends Building a new store
house the mail goes through this place every wednesday.
Uncle Joe keeps the post-office I am very glad of it shall
have much better chance of improving my self.
John Trevillian (?) arrives safe from Providence last sunday a
week he bought some casinet muslin and earlier which
he bough[t] there at _____ sold very good muslin at 7 cts/yard
he gave me all I could get over 75 cts/yard for his casinet
I made \$ 1.55. I like to have bough[t] sister a dress pattern
of trim such as we sell at 20 or 22 cts/yard he sold for 11
I will now come to a end as I have nothing more
of any importance to communicate to you

But I still remain your affectionate son

Edward R Goslin

PS Please to answer this communication by

next mail direct to Tobaccostick as it

Will not stop at Cambridge

E R G

rite wheather you have got me any cloth

or not if you have I want you to make a

this against I come up.

E R G

Philadelphia July 4th 1848

My Dear Sister

Know doubt but what you think strange
of my not answering your letter before this time I never
recd it until the 2nd when it arrived at Boston I was
down East at New Castle Main I left Boston on the 16th
of June to accompany one of Capt Percin's daughters home
whose grandfather was sick and needed her assistance at
home her mother and sister had come to Boston on a visit
and tonight the husband and father on his arrival at that
place after an absence of nine month I became acquainted
with them there and on the knews [news] of her parent illness
I was requested to accompany her home/By her father as buis-
-nys [business] would detain him in town and on my arrival at Boston
the day before yesterday I learned that the Brig Hannah and
Jane was sold but not without a chance for me the answers
of the Brig H and J would have me come on to this palaced and
join another of their vessell A Topsail schooner of 210 tons
Burthen I came onboard of her this morning and would
like he vessell very much if she was not so large for her
Rig she is nearly a new vessell and A Complete specimint [specimen]
of Beaty[beauty] and her commander is much of gentlemen from
what I have heard of him so I all ready [already] feel myself at ease
in my new floating home—

Mary Ann it is the sincere wish of your

unworthy brother that on the receipt of this you and all family
connection may be enjoying good health my health is very good at
this time so very good My trip down East has been a great
benefit to my health I think. So much so that I left New
Castle very reluctantly it is a very pretty little Eastern village
And place I shall visit pretty often and it may be my
futar [future] home but not without visiting the place of my childhood
occasionally oh but was I that child again or that religious
Church going boy that I was a few years ago I would be
willing to learn this world that I know I would of departed
in peace and without blot to stain my past life but know [now] it is
as a shadow passed out of light I have no one to reproach but
myself and would to heaven that it was no reproach on know [no]
one but myself But Mary Ann believe not one half that you
have heard about me for it is a most contemptable lie
on the first place in regards of that cursed negro wench
on the Eastern shore I am as innocent of that charge
as heaven itself- and the report that was circulated
by Capt John Griffith it was done through a malice we had
a bad a falling out in the West Indies and through Left
defence [defense] I would of taken life which he knew and for satisfaction
he circulated a report about me of the most notorious
lies that I ever heard of for which I live for satisfaction
and I believe that day is destined to arrive ere long
but enough of that on my arrival at Baltimore I will clear it

up to my satisfaction

give my love to those . . . and the two little boys

excuse me for calling them little boys for I expect you begin

to think them large boys Mary Ann dont let them get to be

men too soon in your last letter you gave me the knews [news] of the island which

I hope you will continue to do very often do not fail in writing

to me as often as it is convenient send your letters to John and

he will forward them to me Mary Ann believe me when I say

that there is nothing on Earth that give me so much real

pleasure as to hear from my relatives when we sent for them

Mary Ann I did think before I recd your letter that you

Had lent a listening ear to the report that was calculated

About and had _____ to think of me any longer _____

Brother but oh no such is the case and I cannot

Express my feelings when I am convinced that such is not the

Case

Let me know how Emily and her family is for it

appears that she is out [of] the world for I can but very seldom

hear from her you written that Mr. Hurst was sick and

I cant say that I am sorrow for it but if he had [treated]

my sister as a husband should his wife that I would _____

his illness very much and I could of [viewed] him as a

brother inlaw brothers As it is I can not how soon the

dotard is put under the sod and may god receive his soul

I leave this place tomorrow for

Boston and I expect that sooner will run regular between this and

Boston all the season [season] she was built and intended for one

of the packets on the line -- _____ and write and

cease not to think of your

Brother Bill

I was in the Brig Hannah and Jane nine months and seventeen days

Post Philadelphia

Mrs. Mary A Cator

Taylor's Island

Dorchester County

Maryland open by J H T

Care of Capt Hutchenson

Philadelphia Sept 17th 1848

My Dear Sister,

Being at this place to day and
Having a few leisure minnets I not know how
To appropriate them better than to write it four
Times to a sister that I love to nearly as I do
God Althoug I have never Recd any answer to
My last but still Mary Ann I cannot think that
it is the want of affection that you have not.
written and I hope that nothing of a serious nature
has kept you from it. Be sure and write me ever
opportunity For Mary Anna you cannot conceive
the ineffable pleasure that it gives me to receive
a letter from you and to hear from my relations
and I hope that on the rciept
of this that you and all family connecion may be
enjoying the same share of good health that your
unworthy brother is at present.

I have nothing knew to relate that
would interest you so you must not expect a
long letter I have exchanged situation but along
with the same Capt and same empoy I am now
in the brig Teneriffe Capt Carlisle and shall leave
this place in a few days for Boston and this winter our
place of Destany will be the Bay of Mexico and on my

return in the spring I intend to visit you a few days
or longer if my time will permit I have the promise
of a vessel in the spring or sooner If there is any opening
wich they will be in the Spring for the Employ is
a barque in then and for a Packit Between Boston
and Baltimore and Capt Carlisle is to take charge
of same and they say if I stay in the Employ that
I may take my choice to go mate of the barque or
Take charge of the Brig Tenneriffe but it eill
depend all together how this leason opens if times ___
as due for vessels sent year as they have been this
I have choose the former and as an indaument
for Me to stay in the employ they say I may have
the naming of the barque and if so her name
will be the Inez after a Spanish Lady that I am
acquainted with in mobile.

I suppose that you have had
a number of camp meetings in the county this year and
a great many converts and oh my they stick
to it better than some that has professed the same
Faith before them Mary Ann I am not Capable
of giving you advise if I was I should say to you
if you want to be happy in this world or the world to come
hold on to that which I know you did enjoy namely
Religion But enough of that it make me feel sad

and almost put me Besides myself

Give my love to uncle Sam and Aunt

Mary often I do think of them too good and _____

forever and Relatives of their kindness Extended

towards me in my younger days and the many good

Religious instruction I would write to them but I

fear they have forgotten me and if was to write

to them it might put them in mind of one that they

would often think of in regret give my love to

Thomas and the two boys when you write let me

know how Emily is coming on I have written to her

to day but I don't expect any answer for I written

several letters to her this summer and have never

Recd any answer

Send your letters to John and he

will forward them to me so Farewell and

Believe ever to be your brother Bill

Philadelphia Sept 13

Port Pard

Mrs. Margaret Cater

Taylor Island

Dorchester County, MD

St Thomas May 28th 1851

My Dear Sister Polly

It has been a
long time since I have had the
pleasure of having a letter from you
or any of the Island folks. Nor
should I ever hear from any of you
were it not for the letters that Matt
sometimes receiving from home.
I would certainly like to hear
from you all. Since I wrote you
last we have had an increase
in our family- of one of the finest
little boys that St Thomas can
boast of. And I am glad to say
that his mother is all right again
I think I shall name him Sam
for fear I will be last. But tell
my nephew that he still holds
his position in my breast as ever
he did and yet stick to my promise
of educating him. And shall demand
him in 52. tell Thomas I shall
if nothing turns up more than I an-
-ticipate be at home in the summer.

of 52. When I shall endeavor
to see you all. Kate send love to
all I am dear Polly
your brother Sam

Mrs. Mary A. Cator
Taylors Island
Care of Mrs. Forland and Travors sail
Mc___ Spears wharf
Baltimore MD

Forrign Letter Office St Thomas

St. Thomas July 13th 1852

Dear Sister

I have been here some five days

We are not very well Sam and his mother

complain very much. I am myself

a good deal out of sorts. I am

in hopes you and Thomas—also the lady

are well. Kiss the boys for me. I fear

I shall not be able to come down

as my business call me down

cast and I shall leave in a few

weeks for Boston. I should like

to hear from Thomas and you often

before I leave the U state in haste.

Your brother Sam

Mrs. Mary A. Cator

Taylors Island

Attention

Capt M. Nay

Baltimore August 3rd 1852

Dear Thomas

I have wrote to my sister
Polly untill she fails to answer my
letters. I now will try you and
see if you can find time or incli-
-nation (?) to drop me a few lines.

You will find onboard the
steam a box directed to you
with some cakes and candys for
my two nephews Sam and John. You
will please say to Molly that
if she or you are called upon
the capt of the steamer Ceciele
this day week that Molly will
get the Broach. as Kate intends
sending it by the capt himself
we are all well and in hopes of this
finding you and family the same

Kiss the boys for me

Sam

Thomas E. Cator Esqr.

Taylors Island

Baltimore Sep. 13th 1952

Dear Molly

We received

Your box of fruit. You will

please except our kind thanks

I am in hopes your family

is all well. I shall expect

you to come up soon as we

shall more be off in a few weeks

we are all well write

me when you will be up

Your brother

Sam

John E

Baltimore MD

Mrs. Mary A. Cator

From Sam

Taylors Island

Men of many minds binds (?) of many kinds this is the year of 1855. Baltimore

St. Thomas February 9th 1853

Dear Sister

Since I left the U States

I have not heard one word form you
or any other person on the island what
have become of you all- We have had
the yellow fever there to a fearful
extent but now have dispersed in a
great measure. Thank God both me
and my family has been spared- Though
I have not seen one well day since
I last saw you- And when I shall
I can not say- Though I live in
hopes of seeing some well days yet
before I die- To night a week
previous Kate was confined with a
fine boy both her and child are
geting along first rate- I shall
name him Dorset after my native
County. So tell Sam and John to send
their cousin Dorset some hams when they
are cured and he will be man enough
to eat them and no mistake remember
me to all relations and friends and tell
Thomas I am anxious to hear from

him. Write me about brother William if you
know whar he is. Your brother

Sam

Mrs. Thomas E. Cator

Dorchester County near

Taylors Island Post office

Maryland

New York Ship

March 1

7 [cents]

Sunday

St. Thomas Feby (February) 20th 1853

Dear Sister

I drop you a few lines

To say that Kate and children are

all well except little Sam who

suffers very much from the whooping

cough. Is it true that I heard

you are likely to become a mother

to a another little responsible- If

so write me all about it and

tell me if he is a boy or a girl.

If a girl do name it Manuleta

for I fear I shall not have a girl

to name. boys I expect 1 born

if nothing happens [to] me or Kate. I am

like Uncle Sam scarcely see

a well day. But the children

will come. Kiss my Sam and tell

him to make my colt grow as

I shall want him some time soon

Say Thomas to write me about what

I told him of in my letter previous

to this farewell dear sister and remember

me to all friends and relations do not forget
my hams. Tell Emily to write me and do you
do it some times your brother

Sam

Mrs. Mary A. Cator

Near Taylors Island

Post office Dorchester County

Maryland

Boston

5 March

5 cents

St. Tho April 21st 1853

Dear Brother

Yours and sisters of 22 March

duly cam to 2 days previous to
this and I do assure you it is the
only script I have received from any
person in the island since I left
the U States. I am very much oblige[d]
to you for your information in regard
of the farm of James M. Pattison.

I would like you to give me all the
particulars as regard how much
wood could he cutt of both kinds
and what you think of the farm.

Whether you would advise me to take

Hold of it or not. I fear if it is

sold this fall that I will not be

able to purchase it however you

give me all the information you

can and I will see what can be

done. I had some idea of extending

my business on this island on a larger

scale if I do so I shall not be able

perchase it we are all well

and I live in hopes of this finding

you and family the same. I remain

dear Tom your brother

Sam

Thomas E. Cator Esqr.

Taylor Island Post

Office Maryland

Baltimore MD

May 14

St. Thomas June 14th 1853

Dear Sister and Brother

Since my last of the
3rd of this month nothing has transpired
worthy of your notice. Only the yellow fever
is daily increasing. But it is princi-
-pally confind to the shipping in the
harbor. And very few cases on shore.
Ere the receipt of this I am in hopes
you will have the barrel of sugar
and bag of coffee Which I have ordered
by partner P.W. Spaulding to leave
at N Rogers Ho Store Smiths wharf
Baltimore. And to be maarked Thomas
E. Cator Esqr Taylors Island. I am
truley thankful for your kind presant
and last Sunday I done justice to
one of your hams which put me much
in mind of the last time I dined at
my kind old uncle Sams table
remember my kindly to him and aunt Mary
and also uncle Williams family. Please write
me whether my letters not directed to any persons
came but sent to Taylors Island Post office
ever came to hand. Kiss the boys and my

niece for me and believe me to be your

brother Sam

Tho. E Cator Esqr.

Taylors Island

Care G L Travers Light

Street wharf

Baltimore MD

JUL 1

Ship

Please forward and oblige Sam

St. Thomas July 2nd 1853

Dear brother Tom and Sister Molly,

Since my last
to you nothing worthy of notice has transp-
-ired my little flock is quite well and
I am tolerable so myself- Since I have been
out here the last time the yellow fever
has prevailed to a powerful extent and
I have kept silence on the subject
until it now rages to such an extent
that it is useful for me to keep silence
on the subject- It pays no respect of
persons- though I believe it is harsher on
uropians [Europeans] than most any others-I myself or
family apprehends no fear though we
are as likely as others to have it , particularly
me if it is contagious as I am daily
and hourly with the catps mates and sailors
attending to their wants and obtaining good
nurses and medical attention. I live in the hopes
all will end write [right]. Remember me to all
and you Tom must write me often. Kiss
the children. And receive the affections
of your brother

Sam

Thomas E. Cator Esqr

Taylors Island

Care GT Travers Light St.

Wharf

Baltimore MD

SEPT 6

Sunday

St. Thomas Feby (February) 20th 1853

Dear Sister

I drop you a few lines

To say that Kate and children are

all well except little Sam who

suffers very much from the whooping

cough. Is it true that I heard

you are likely to become a mother

to a another little responsible- If

so write me all about it and

tell me if he is a boy or a girl.

If a girl do name it Manuleta

for I fear I shall not have a girl

to name. boys I expect 1 born

if nothing happens [to] me or Kate. I am

like Uncle Sam scarcely see

a well day. But the children

will come. Kiss my Sam and tell

him to make my colt grow as

I shall want him some time soon

Say Thomas to write me about what

I told him of in my letter previous

to this farewell dear sister and remember

me to all friends and relations do not forget
my hams. Tell Emily to write me and do you
do it some times your brother

Sam

Mrs. Mary A. Cator

Near Taylors Island

Post office Dorchester County

Maryland

Boston

5 March

5 cents

St. Thomas Aug 19th 1853

My Dear Sister Molly

Your more than

Kind letter date July came to

Hand yesterday- And it would be

needless for me to endeavor to explaine

my gratitude to you for writing me

I am in hope you will ever write me

often. For you can not immagine how

glad we are at all times to hear from

you all at home- In regard of the farm

I fear I shall not be able to spare

the money out of my business the

plagy [plague] of yellow fever has cut our

years work short and we have extended

our business more largely consequently

I would not like to cramp my business

here. For any farm just now- I

must stick to the old place a little

longer that gave me my first start

I can not yet say what I may do

as I must reflect a little before I

leave. If I do anything I will inform

my friend Roger in Baltimore who will

write to Thomas- Tell Thomas I am in

hopes he will make a big crop of
wheat. I should judge so as he
is so busy that he could not write
I think Tom one of the sassiest
white men I ever knew. Poor me
has to write whether I like it or
not- This makes my 9th letter to
date and I am not more than
half done now. I was sorry that
the sugar and coffee got so far from
you a gross mistake in my
partner under whose direction they
were left- You say you do not
hear form the hams that is very
strange I have acknowledged the
receipt of them in there different
letter. To my knowledge you do
not receive my letter request
or you would have known I had
received them before this. Remember
me to Emily kiss the children and
remember me to both of my
uncles and familys. We are tolerable
well. The fever has left us in
some degree. Nothing more

your brother Sam
excuse my hurry
as the steam leaves
in a few hours and I have many letters to write
yet

To steamer Martin
Via N York

Mrs. Thomas E. Cator
Taylor Island Post office
Dorchester County
Maryland
From Sam

Steam Ship
10

St. Thomas
AU20
1853

St. Thomas Feb. 4th 1854

Dear Sister,

Your kind letter of December

duly came to hand a few days previous

and I assure you it gave me great

pleasure to hear from you and family-

and as well as all of my relations on the

Island- This is the only letter I have

received from the Island for 5 months.

I was astonished that such a long

time should pass without hearing from

you. I reply to your kind letter

I have nothing to relate that will

give you any pleasure- On the 13th

December the Chorlora [cholera] broke out in

this Island and since that date to

the present time out of a population

of 13500 inhabitants on the whole

Island there has been about 1700

Deaths making between 13 and 14 percent

in 53 days on the whole Island though

much less in proportion in the country

than the town. At this time it has

somewhat abated- When I received

your letter, my youngest and the best

of children was ill- And it please
the almighty in his divine will to
take him out of his trouble on the 1st of
this month. He was sick just one week and
could have been 1 year old in two days
more. My health is but poor having
suffered very much from diorrehea [diarrhea] and
pains in the stomach for several weeks
and confine to the house. My nurse
is now lying ill. My poor wife and Sam
my oldest only child has been tolerable
well so much as the nature of her
affections would allow on this
melloncholy [melancholy] occasion. In truth my
house for one month has been an
hospital- When it will cease is
truly known by them who holds ours
existence at his will. All of my former
letters to you since we were children
was in the tone of Brother affections
I now my dear sister have to joine
the feelings of a Father with that
of Brother. It would be useless for
me to endeavour to describe them to
you for I am now satisfied that

none but a parrant [parent] can feel as I
do at this moment and I pray my
Great Father to give me strength
of mind to bear up against my
afflictions- I can write no
more. Your Brother Sam.

Mrs. Thomas E. Cator
Dorchester County
Near Taylors Island Post office
New York Ship Feb. 20
7 cents

Please write me if you know any
thing about Brother William I will
write sister Emily when my mind is somewhat
composed.

Federalburg

Feb 10 1855

My Dear Sister

Your favor of December

the 23rd reached me last week which give me pleasure
in having that you were all well this leaves us well with
the exception of a bad cold that I have taken during
this cold spell of weather is this not very cold
weather it. Remind me of that February that our dear
Grandfather died how time passes away the
winter had soon be gone you had better come up
hear the first good spell of weather next month.
If you put off until gardening time you will
be likely not to come I think we will have good
weather after this spell I want you to come
prepared to stay at least two weeks you ask
me what I have been doing this winter I was telling mother
to day that it did not appear to me like I had
been doing any thing this winter as I had made
no carpet now quilt I think of prepareing
yarn and sending it to Baltimore and having a carpet
wove for my dining room this year if I live
and nothing happens I can get wool form the
store at 25 cents per pound I know it will cost

like any thing but then it is good it will take
30 yrs [years] Joseph Edmondson was at our house 2 weeks
ago he said our friends from Baltimore were well.
I have not had a letter from John nor Clara
for a long time I would love to see them I
think of I like I will go up some time this
year to spend a week with them I had a
letter from Kate recently dated December 13th
written about the time yours was I expect she
said that they still wish Mr. Gastin
to keep a look out for property for them
she said she often thought of her happy very
happy visit to our house and wished her self
settled on our neighborhood a good deal for
her to say I mean the above _____ Mr. Gastin
wrote to brother last week and wrote him
that there was no place for sail in his
neighborhood but a Mr. Brown owning the
mill property within a mile from up had told
him on several occasions that he would sell
his situation and also the mills Sam knows what
property it is and he told us if it was sold
that he would purchase it it is very valuable
property and I think a very pretty place it has
good many buildings on it will sell for 7 or

8 thousand dol [dollars] I am in hopes when he writes
he will be in the notion of purchasing it and
moving hope for our probation is so fast
drawing to a close I would love to spend the
last of my days close to you all or one at least
I have nothing of interest to communicate I am
anxious to see you all come up as soon as the
weather will admit I will send you the
hair for your pin you wear not so unfort
inate [unfortunate] as my self for I have had the sad mis
fortune [misfortune] to lose my pin with my dear mother
so dear Sarry [Sarah] hair it was all I had of Sarry
if you have any send it to me my cloth
was a total loss Wilkenson was put in jail
I got nothing for it. I must draw this to
a close write soon my love to Uncle Bill and
family May E Harmen has another son she is
doing very well kiss Roose for me tell her not
to forgit Aunty my love to Thomas and Sam and John
tell Sam he must write to me at Mr. Gastin
via at the store as usual one would join in
Love to you all so good night Saturday night

From your affectionate Sister

Emily L Gastin

Fort Arbuckle Nov. 7th 1855

Dear Sister

Yours of the 6th of July came to hand to day and I will assure you that I have not had any think for the last eight years to give as much pleasure as to read a letter form you. For I had though that you had forgotten that you ever had a brother by the name of Bill. I have written written to you on several occasion, and that was the first line I ever recd from you. So I had fully come to the conclusion that you never once thought of me. And oh Emily how many bitter bitter thoughts have I spent on that. To have the fact forced on met hat all my relatives think that I held dearer than all else on Earth had ceased to spend one thought on their absent brother. Would to heaven that you had all written to me eighteen months sooner if so I could of went home in good sircumstances (circumstances) then at that time I had given up ever going home from the facts as I thought then of being discarded by my relatives. Since that time I met with some pretty severe losses last year I lost over eight thousand dollars in a trading trip to the Camancha nation and met with I very narrow escape with my life. They killed two fine

negro men for me and had it not of been for the
Pecos River and a good horse they would have had my
scalp. We are surrounded here by Indians both
friendly and hostile they keep the inhabitants
what few there is continually allarmed and the troops
as this post on the on the alert all the time.
Emily you write for me to come home their [there] is
nothing that would give me as much pleasure as to
do so but I cannot do it before the first of
fifty seven I have got some contracts on hand
for government that will not be out before
the first of jan/57 at the Expiration of that time
I shall be sertain to go home. I am tired of
this Western country I have seen enough of
this land route Oregan [Oregon] Santa Fee Salt Lake
and California I have traveled to by land so I [am]
getting tired of sailing on the prararies [parries]. Give my
love to my relatives particular your
family. I am very glad to hear that you
have married a man that makes you a good
husband and I hope that you may live
happy I regret very much to hear the death
of our brother Thos [Thomas] Cator I hope that he
was resign to his fate and prepared for a
better world than this. Mary Ann I hope

will take the loss of her husband with
Christian fortitude. I am glad to hear that
Sam is settled down. Though he cares
but little about me I have written to him
twice since he been home from St. Thomas's
he thought so little of them that he never
answered them. He will never receive
another line from me until he does answer
them. Emily be sure and write often do not
wait for my answers for I am not hear all the
time but be where my letter is forw-
-arded to me from this place. I will answer
Your letters the first chance I have _____
Them to US. Give my love to my brother in
law and tell him he must write to me
Emily when [you] write you give me all the news [news]
all the deaths births and marriages. I have
heard of nothing but two deaths in seven years.
Be sure and write often. I written to Mary
Ann and Aunt Mary months ago but
Recd no answered. I hope that this may not
Meet with the same reception

Farwell Emily and believe

me to be your sincere brother

Bill

Fort Arbuckle Nov. 7th 1855

Dear Sister

Yours of the 6th of July came to hand to day and I will assure you that I have not had any think for the last eight years to give as much pleasure as to read a letter form you. For I had though that you had forgotten that you ever had a brother by the name of Bill. I have written written to you on several occasion, and that was the first line I ever recd from you. So I had fully come to the conclusion that you never once thought of me. And oh Emily how many bitter bitter thoughts have I spent on that. To have the fact forced on met hat all my relatives think that I held dearer than all else on Earth had ceased to spend one thought on their absent brother. Would to heaven that you had all written to me eighteen months sooner if so I could of went home in good sircumstances (circumstances) then at that time I had given up ever going home from the facts as I thought then of being discarded by my relatives. Since that time I met with some pretty severe losses last year I lost over eight thousand dollars in a trading trip to the Camancha nation and met with I very narrow escape with my life. They killed two fine

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this land route Oregan [Oregon] Santa Fee Salt Lake
and California I have traveled to by land so I [am]
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wait for my answers for I am not hear all the
time but be where my letter is forw-
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Your letters the first chance I have _____
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Be sure and write often. I written to Mary
Ann and Aunt Mary months ago but
Recd no answered. I hope that this may not
Meet with the same reception

Farwell Emily and believe
me to be your sincere brother

Bill

Baltimore August 7 '56 [1856]

My Dear Sister

You will precivd by this letter that we are as well
as could be expected Clarissa has a fine boy and
is doing well I know that this may find you and family
well and all our friends. I have just hear from
Brother W. [William] by a letter that he wrote to Sam I broke
it open he says that he has been sick but is now much
better if Clarissa is well enough I will go to the
camp on Saturday night- And if I do not I want you
to tell Uncles Sam and Bill that I am much oblige to
them for their repeted visit that they piad us
when my wife was laying at the point of Death
you must come up as soon as you can- if you
can come to the camp on Sunday you will see me
bring your children I want to see all of them Clarissa
say that she will write when she gits well

good by

John

Mrs. Mary A. Cator

Taylors Island Md

Care of Paper

R R _____

Baltimore 20 1860

Dear Mary Ann

I have sent your things by
the packet I hope you will like them I have done
the very best I could for the money your dress
and duster I got for 22 each a yard there
was 21 yards in the piece I got it all I could
have gotten other goods that was more showy but
it was all to light I think this will make
a very pretty suite I could not get any more
trimming like mine on my dress but I think
yours is just as pretty it cost more the sun
umbrella I got for 16 and ½ cents rosa for
a dollar I send the trimmings for your gown
dress also ____ bonnet the buff gingham
was 37 cents a yard the same as the
bulliont and I think it is prettier your
garters I could not change at the store
where Clara bought them and no one
else would change them my love to aunt Sally
and tell her I left hers and Aunt rebecca
letters at sister Mary's I am very sorry
I forgot them I thought they would
send them up please excuse this as it
is time to send it away my love to all and

reserve a large share for your self from your

sincere friend

Pris

Mrs. Mary A Cator

Federalsgurg

Caroline Co.

Md.

Baltimore

JAN [January] 2

9 PM

MD

Federalburg September 2nd 1864

Friday morning

Dear Mother

I am now
getting ready to leave aunt
Emilys for Staford and
Will leave them this evening.
I feel as though I shall
Not be gone long I have
I never thought I should be draftid [drafted] and if
The draft takes place
Next week I shall be home
The week after if I should
Not be drafted. I think
You had better try to get
Robinson Barnes and hire
Tom to Uncle Sam. Tell
Tom to try and not
let the fodder get wet
and take good care of
the horses. I shall
write to you as soon as
I get to N.Y. I shall
direct my letters to Mr. Goslin
of Frank Travers and they

will mail them over and
by that means it will not
be known who they are
from. I think you had
better ship the wheat as soon
as is convenient. Mr. Goslin
seems to think that it
not be much higher aunt
Emily talks something of
coming down with Winnie
I must stop now as the
carriage is waiting to go
I would like to see you
and Rosa this many
kiss Rosa for me I never
knew how much I loved
you until now I am about
to leave you but I hope
for a short time Good by

Dear Mother I will write
to you next week

your son John

I will have my carte de vista
taken and send you

J

Baltimore Sep. 13th 1864

Dear John,

Yours of the 8th is just to hand

and without sitting down I hasten to
reply to it. I left home some few days
previous to this and your mother and
friends were all well. I saw her only
a few hours before I left. She was
then very anxious to hear from you
and I have no doubt has done so
before this through Federalsburg or
Ceaford. In regard to the draft in
Maryland is hard to say when
it will come off as since the
5th no other day has been named
it may come off next week or
it may be putt off longer it is
impossible to say- tell Solomon
his friends are all well nothing
new in the neighborhood- when
anything takes place will inform
you immediately your

uncle

Sam

September 13 1864

My dear Son

On saturday last I learned
form Mr. Smith that you had arrived
in Philadelphia and would leave
that place on teusday for New York
to which place I hope you have
arrived safely and are enjoying your
selves as much as you can under
the circumstances oh how anxious
I am to hear from and know how
you are situated and getting along
I am daily expecting A letter from
I hope to hear by next wednesday mail
two days more and you will be for
home and me. twn weeks and it seems
like six months. I can truly say that
they have been ten of the most miserable
weeks I ever spent I pray grace that
I may not have to spend many more
such, oh this horrible suspence
how long will it last. it is almost
killing. Dr. Smith is home I saw him
yesterday he said he was told in _____
that the draft would come off some

time this week I hope it may and let
us know the results at once I wished
I only knew the day and could write
you. Brother Sam is in Baltimore he
will learn more about it and will
write he promised me to do so I told
him to see what substitute could be
obtained for should you be drafted
if possible I want to get one for you I
cannot bear the thought of being
separated from you. for the present
you can only remain where you are
and wait untill you hear more from
home as is regards to the credits for
our district they have accomplished
nothing yet, but are still making an
effort, some think they will be able
to clear the district others say they
will not I only wish it could be
done..dont worry yourself about home
now me I will try to do the best I can
I want you to enjoy yourself as much as
You from Rosa I believe you
Are in all her thoughts they talks all
The time about you and longs for the

Time for you to come home. oh how

Thankful I shall be if I can only see

You home again I hope it will not

Be long before I shall see you

We are done cutting and

shaping the fodder and commenced

getting it up today , we have had bad weather

for saving it it has been very saving

I think they have done the best they

could with it I dont think any of it is

injured, we made a barrel of cider

the saturday you left you could have

made another if we had now have

a barrel to fit it in. the horses have

improved since you left I have

had them put up every night and

some blade gives them, Tom counts

the hogs every morning, he says he

knows them all as soon as we get

the fodder up we will harrow

the followed ground, and if you

dont get home in time to seed the

wheat I will try to get Robinson

Barnes to seed, I have not shipped

the wheat yet indeed I have not

thought much about it, I will

see something about it when

Brother Tom gets home, George Travers

is about the same

Annie Travis is getting

ready to go to Baltimore, going up in

company with Emma Smith. Cordelia

Ratcliff spent last week on Ward

Tour took her home last saturday, Betty

Ryan stayed last night with me

Billy Kerwan left on thursday night

I have not yet heard where he has gone

Capt Bunean left him, not I must

close this second take

good care of yourself and believe

your affectionate Mother

Tell Saullie I was dear to his fathers on saturday they were

all well

At Home Sunday Afternoon

11th December 1864

1 ½ oclock

My dear frend

Emily and I are sitting
alone by our hearth stone. Our Eddie
(God help him)has gone down to his
grandma's to get a new pen to write
to his aunt Jincy. The fire burns
cheerfully. We are pleasantly situ-
-ated only we wish you were
with us. We hope it will shortly
be so. Come and stay with us
my dear frend. and rest assured
we will welcome you. make
our house your home we are
expecting you, and shall look
for you until you come
I am a porr [poor] letter writer. The fact
is I have scarcely time that I
can call my own though the
week to write a letter. I hope
it is not rong to do so on the
Sabbath. I dont desire doing rong
but no doubt I very often do so

I have never been so closely con-
-fined and so constantly employed
with so little leisure as I am
now and have been for 2 years
But I do it cheerfully knowing
it to be my duty. It is probably
the best under all the circumstances
that I can do. Brother is
very anxious for me to go to
Baltimore. He has made me
some good offers, But then
I should have to leave this Hill,
I ask myself the question why
need I do it? We have but one
child. I am very much opposed
to raising him in the City I had
rather keep him away from the influences
that would then be thrown around
him. The customs, habbits fashins
and I must say dissipations of
City life would not suit me.
Rather let my boy be raised in
an humble sphere, so that he may
be taught the practice of virtue
and be more aloof from vice. I

think is is a boy of fine promise
if he can be raised and educated
aright

But then my greatest object in writing
to you is to bid you welcome to
our house and under our roof
It will be pleasanter to both
you and Emily. I sincerely
hope you will spend your days
with her. Come up, come up.

We are as well as usual. In
fact I believe my health is better
for the last year than it formerly
was I hope you and Rosa are
well Emily has not received a
form you since she came
up. Give my love to Uncle
Bill and Aunt Rebecca together
with all other friends and
believe me most sincerely your
friend Edward R Goslin

War Work Council

Army and Navy

Young Men's Christian Association

"With the colors"

Sunday AM 1917

Dear Grandmother:

I was very glad to hear from you and am glad that you did not wait for me to write first. I have gotten quite a few letters and it is quite some job to answer them all promptly but I try to do so as it is very nice to get them when you are away from home.

This Island is some place. We can see Brooklyn Bridge, Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island and numerous points of interest without any trouble. There are all kinds of ships and boats passing by all of the time and it is as noisy as any street in the city. However it would take more than just noise to keep me awake now days. Tell Ethel not to send her camera as she most kindly suggested as I do not want to bother with it. It might be lost, stolen or broken and I would

rather not do it. All of the privates in our
company are to leave for New Port News
tomorrow. I dont know how much longer
we will be here but dont think it will
be very long. Guess when we leave it
will be direct to France.

They have free pictures and other
kinds of shows at the YMCA every
night and we can all go if we like as
there is nothing to do after supper
unless we are on guard as I am today.
Have to work two bows and rest
from 10.30 today until 10.30 Monday.
It is not bat as all as you get out of
drilling during that time and when we
get off at 10.30 as have the rest of
the day free. It is nearly time for
me to go on so I will have to stop.
Hope you are well. Write soon. Love
to both of you.

Donald

Mrs. Rose Davis

Federalsburg

Caroline Co. Md. New York

SEP 25

9AM

1917

My Dear Rosia

I received your
letter and was glad to hear from
you I wrote to you March last
your uncle Ned sais he is
feeling remarkable well
for which I feel very thankful
for Miss Jones is teaching
I wish you were at school
Mr. Coreys two daughters have
gone on and going off to school
I think to Willington
Dick Cannon and Wesley Smith
have gone to Baltimore to
school Johnny Elliott is going
to Baltimore on a vessil
the girls are all anxious
to have you come home
tell your Mah Mr. S M Cooper
staid with us last Saturday
night and dined with me Sunday time has
left its impress upon him
as well as my self he is quite
gray and bald looking like
an old man it saddened my

feelings and meeting

with him brought maney changes

to my mind but such is life

but amid them all I feel

that I have much to enduce

me to love god for goodness

and Mercey has followed me all

the days of my life but my

child my subject is too grone

for one of your tender years

you say you hope the Peaches

and grapes will not be gone

Rosia they are gone I am

sorry you your Mah missed

them the Peaches were very fine

the grapes not so good

I tell your Dona maybe is

Quite a young lady this summer

Saw her promenading on the

Campground with some gentle

young American Time Enough for

Miss Rosia to do this like

of that 7 years from now

making her 19 what do you

think of that oh you will

think Aunty has forgotten
she was young once not so
my child for well doen she
remember the days of her child
hood and youth will they ever
be green spots in her memory
I love to think of them
and is has cost many a sigh
to bid them a final adieu
but memory ever true to
her breast she shall live
them over though the realitys
hour forever past come home
as soon as you can I am
have you and my dear sister
with it is really a pleasure
write when you will be back
my love to all friends believe
me your affectionate aunt Emy

Federalsburg Christmas Night

My Dear Sister

I received your last letter and was glad to hear from you all and in particular our dear Brother Bill it was indeed a rich Christmas gift do let me hear all that you hear of him you ask me what has become of me well hear I am at home in Federalsburg sitting beside a good warm fire as happy I expect as almost any body in the world Edward is at church for he has been a regular attendant at Church and goes with me to class and appears to polite in the society of the ministers our presiding Elder held a quartering hear last Sunday and Monday and spent hardly 2 days and a night with us I think Edward is trying to live a Christian and in fact Mary Ann I do think he is allmost faultless surly my situation was never half so happy as it is now for which I do say from the depth of my poor heart I will thank and praise the O Lord I have been thinking to day that I did not know how to be thankful enough for the mercys that I enjoy fort he good Lord even I the year that is just past

but my prair [prayer] is that I may do better and
live nearer to him who is so mindful
of me we expect to move to M_____ to
our new home our house is not entirely fini
shed in consequence of its being had
to procure a pasture but we have enough
completed to make us very comfortable I
have a cook stove already fixed up dont
know how I shall like it but very well I
think if we live we shall endure to get
finished up as early in the spring as possible
so you must not fale [fail] to come and spend 2
weeks with me I shall expect you I have
had Roses sack and dress done a long while
but was wanting for Mrs. Stapelfort to
come up to send them, I should have made
her hood but have not had time having
borders and work man both to attend to
but I will make it up to her in something
else. I had her sack partly made when I got
your letter on I would have lined it I
was under a mistake when I told you that
the candle would come free of charge sent
by the mail if directed to Edward no
communications unless on business to the past

month comes free of charge I [k]now this
in case you should want to send a bundle
thru Shoeking and Collar cost me 24 cents
I shall send the frock and josy [jersey]
in the mail if it dont cost more than
it will justly me in doing it. Give
my love to my friends tell Thomas Edward sais he
will be very glad if she will come up tell
Aunt Beca I have look for her in the spring
my love to Aunt B. and all the family my love to
Emily Stapelfort Susan Hersam Remember me
affectionately to uncle Bill I must stop
as I want to retire early shall have to
rise very soon in the morning and pack up now
be sure and come up in the spring kiss the
children for me good night from your

Sister Emily

Federalsburg MD

Dec 27

Mrs. Mary A Cator

Taylors Island